

## APPENDIX B. CONTINUED

### Grand Portage National Monument (GRPO)

**Establishment:** On January 27, 1960 the Grand Portage Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe relinquished certain lands to the United States for the creation of Grand Portage National Monument.

**Designations:** The entire monument is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; all 710 acres are part of an historic district designation. GRPO is designated a Class II airshed.

**Purpose and significance statements important to ecological monitoring:**

- Similar to all other NPS units, the monument must "... conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of same...."
- The monument is significant because of its association with the fur trade, the exploration and colonization of the Northwest, its historic/geographic link between the United States and Canada, and its excellent state of preservation in a semi-wilderness setting.

**General description:** Grand Portage National Monument is located 35 miles northeast of Grand Marais, Minnesota in the extreme northeastern 'arrowhead' region of the state near the Canadian border. The monument protects 710 acres of land including the historic trading post of the North West Company on Lake Superior, the site of Fort Charlotte on the Pigeon River, and an 8.5 mile historic canoe portage trail that connects the two sites. The portage trail crosses several riparian areas and over the Grand Portage Highlands with an 800-foot rise in elevation. The area is covered by a near-boreal forest, with birch-aspen-spruce-fir communities dominating most sites. The Grand Portage trail corridor bisects the Grand Portage Band of Minnesota Chippewa Reservation. Surrounding land use greatly influences resource management at GRPO. Forestry practices on Reservation lands are carefully integrated with wildlife management objectives, and large areas are set aside to preserve the near wilderness character of the region.

**Visitation and human use:** Most visitors to GRPO come to see the site of the North West Company on Lake Superior. Some individuals hike the 8.5-mile portage trail to Fort Charlotte.

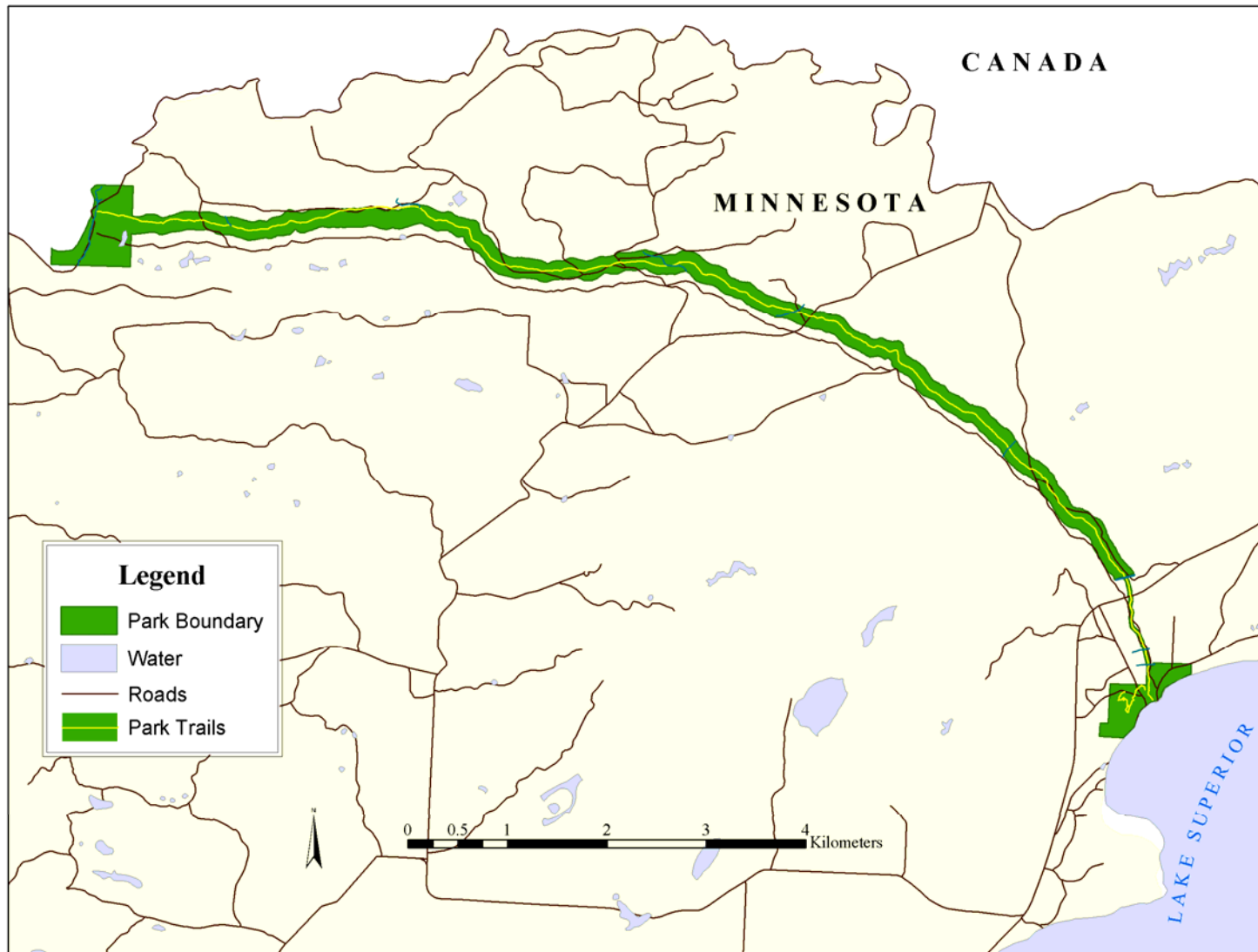
**Critical resources:** At least 16 species of rare plants are found within the monument. Many of these plants are adjacent to the most heavily used portion of GRPO. Coaster brook trout, which were nearly extirpated from Lake Superior, inhabit the nearshore zone of Lake Superior and enter the mouth of the Grand Portage Creek for spawning, along with other fish species. There are self-sustaining populations of gray wolf, black bear, and moose in the adjacent reservation. Peregrine falcons, bald eagles, and smaller raptors have suitable nesting sites in the area, and are frequently observed hunting over the monument. The forested areas along the trail and on adjoining lands are slowly returning to pre-European settlement conditions.

**Primary threats:** Difficulty of managing a narrow corridor of habitat; entrenched populations of exotic plants, perhaps introduced more than 200 years ago; logging and other human uses on adjacent lands is a potential problem for this narrow corridor; airborne pollutants.

**Important management documents:** The GRPO Master Plan was completed in 1973. The General Management Plan (draft 2002) is nearly finalized. A Resource Management Plan was completed in 1995, with a revision approved in January 2001.

**For important park monitoring reports see Supplemental Document #3**

## APPENDIX B. CONTINUED



Map of Grand Portage National Monument and surrounding area.